

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 16-20 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-14 and 16-20 stand rejected. Claim 15 has been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-14 and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shim et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,264,141). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

1. Regarding Claims 1-8, as amended Claim 1 recites, "A pressure relief apparatus for use within a pressurized interior area of a mobile platform, said apparatus comprising: a one piece noise insulation baffle secured directly to a floor structure of the mobile platform, the noise insulation baffle including: a main body; and at least one blow out plug having a perimeter at least partially formed by a recessed portion, the perimeter forming the blow out plug in a shape that matches a shape of an air pathway in the floor structure covered by the noise insulation baffle; wherein the recessed portion is adapted to sever if a pressure differential between an upper lobe and a lower lobe of the mobile platform exceeds a predetermined threshold, thereby at least partially separating the blow out plug from the main body."

Applicant respectfully submits that in light of the amendments to Claim 1, as set forth above, amended Claim 1 is distinguishable over Shim et al. Thus, Shim et al. does not anticipate the invention as recited in amended Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Shim et al.

Claims 2-8 depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-8 are considered in combination with the recitations of amended Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 2-8 are likewise patentable over Shim et al.

2. Regarding Claims 9-14, as amended Claim 9 recites, "A noise insulation baffle for a mobile platform, said noise insulation baffle comprising: a main body portion secured directly to a truss structure of the mobile platform; at least one blow out portion

having a perimeter forming the blow out portion in a shape that matches a shape of an air pathway in the truss structure covered by the blow out portion; and at least one recess defining the perimeter of the blow out portion, the recess adapted to form a web portion connecting the blow out portion with the main body portion, the web portion adapted to sever such that the blow out portion separates from the main body portion when a pressure differential between an upper lobe and a lower lobe of the mobile platform exceeds a predetermined threshold.”

Applicant respectfully submits that in light of the amendments to Claim 9, as set forth above, amended Claim 9 is distinguishable over Shim et al. Thus, Shim et al. does not anticipate the invention as recited in amended Claim 9. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 9 is patentable over Shim et al.

Claims 10-14 depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended Claim 9. When the recitations of Claims 10-14 are considered in combination with the recitations of amended Claim 9, Applicants submit that Claims 10-14 are likewise patentable over Shim et al.

3. Regarding Claims 16-19, as amended Claim 16 recites, “A mobile platform comprising: an upper lobe; a lower lobe; a floor structure between the upper lobe and the lower lobe, the floor structure including at least one air pathway; and a noise insulation baffle constructed of a noise reducing foam that substantially reduces the transmission of noise from the lower lobe to the upper lobe, the noise insulation baffle comprising: a main body portion secured directly to a floor structure of the mobile platform; at least one blow out portion having a perimeter forming the blow out portion in a shape that matches a shape of the air pathway in the floor structure covered by the blow out portion; and at least one recess defining the perimeter of the blow out portion, the recess adapted to form a web portion connecting the blow out portion with the main body portion, the web portion adapted to sever such that the blow out portion separates from the main body portion when a pressure differential between an upper lobe and a lower lobe of the mobile platform exceeds a predetermined threshold.”

Applicant respectfully submits that in light of the amendments to Claim 16, as set forth above, amended Claim 16 is distinguishable over Shim et al. Thus, Shim et al.

does not anticipate the invention as recited in amended Claim 16. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 is patentable over Shim et al.

Claims 17-19 depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended Claim 16. When the recitations of Claims 17-19 are considered in combination with the recitations of amended Claim 16, Applicants submit that Claims 17-19 are likewise patentable over Shim et al.

4. Regarding Claim 20, as amended Claim 20 recites, "A method for reducing noise transmission between a first lobe and a second lobe of a mobile platform, the method comprising: securing a noise insulation baffle directly to a floor structure disposed between the first and second lobes, wherein the insulation baffle is constructed of one of melamine foam and polyimide solimide foam and includes at least one recess that defines a main portion and at least one blow out portion, the recess further forms a severable web portion connecting the main portion and the blow out portion and a perimeter of the blow out portion that defines a shape of the blow out portion that matches a shape of an air pathway in the floor structure; and aligning the blow out portion with the air pathway so that if the pressure differential between the first and second lobes exceeds a predetermined threshold, the web portion will sever allowing the blow out portion to completely separate from the main body portion so that the pressure differential will rapidly be reduced to approximately zero."

Applicant respectfully submits that in light of the amendments to Claim 20, as set forth above, amended Claim 20 is distinguishable over Shim et al. Thus, Shim et al. does not anticipate the invention as recited in amended Claim 20. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 20 is patentable over Shim et al.

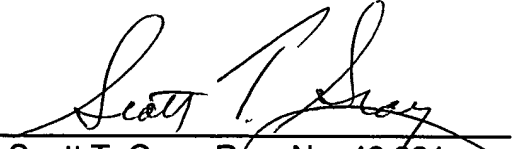
For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §102 rejections of Claims 1-14 and 16-20 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7525.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 3/16/05

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